Communication

Wait! What?
Why are you reading this? You are supposed to be on vacation!
Ok, since you are eager, I will give you the first assignment. Since you are all part of the movie video generation, I will use movies as the assignment below.

1 Good Communication
This course is about communication, so what’s that about?

What Good is communication?
We need to communicate to share thoughts and feelings. Whether we ponder the origins of the universe, bake a cake, or create a business, we need teamwork. We have to communicate to get anything done.

What is Good?
Ahhh! What is Good is the subject of Ethics!
We must learn to assess thoughts, feelings, and actions for their Goodness, and behave accordingly in order to Be Good.
One problem is that some situations are murky, and it is difficult to determine Goodness. Rather it seems that some situations have tradeoffs: each choice of action has some Good and some Bad elements. These are dilemmas.
Another problem is that the Good may be in the eye of the beholder, and the beholder may not be Good. There are many examples today of Bad thoughts, Bad feelings, and Bad actions.

What is Good communication?
I feel that Good communication depends on:
• Being open to different viewpoints,
• Listening and being willing to change,
• Putting yourself in the other person’s shoes, and
• Above all respecting the truth.
We all are human, and that means we make mistakes.
Even the best communicators mess up. A recent example is when Pope Francis slapped the hands of a person who would not let go of him. What did he do? Apologize. And that was the Right Thing.
2 Assignment Title: Ethics Essay 0

Below are Wikipedia links to the two movies to study. Streaming the movies costs only a few dollars, and you could split the cost by watching with friends.

- **Do the Right Thing**
  - Who did the Right Thing? Was it Mookie? Or was it the street’s Mayor? Pay careful attention to the climax of the movie and what the actors do.
  - Who is Right? Is it Martin Luther King? Or is it Malcolm X? This happens at the very end of the movie.

- **Hidden Figures**
  - How did those women overcome the prejudice?
  - How did the behavior of the white characters change? What caused them to change?

Assignment Content, Size, Format, Submission, and Grading

- Use questions in the bullet points under each movie as starting points. Devote an even amount of content to each movie, and construct arguments that describe WHY you answered the way you did.
- The essay should be 250-300 words in length, and this size is approximately 1 page in a 12 point font. I will not read more than one page; I will ignore a second page.
- Word process the essay using a 12 point font and appropriate paragraphing.
- There must be a heading that contains the assignment name, Ethics Essay 0, your first and last name, login ID, and the course and section number.
- Print the essay with 0.75 or 1 inch margins on white, 8.5 by 11 inch paper.
- Bring your printed essay to the class on Thursday of Week 01.
- I will grade based on grammar, style, and content. Spelling counts!

3 Reflection

After you finish the assignment, reflect on these questions below.

- How will you remain open to different viewpoints?
- How will you listen carefully and stay willing to change?
- How will you remember to put yourself in the other person’s shoes?
- How will you respect truth and change in light of new information?
- How will you work to discover and correct your biases?
- How what will you create a mutually respectful class environment?